

MARPLE CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th OCTOBER 2003 AT 6.00PM,
MARPLE LIBRARY**

Present: Peter Bardsley (Marple Local History Society), Cllr Chris Elwood, Cllr Andrew Bispham, Kay Gould-Martin (Business Forum), Philip Gould-Martin (Business Forum), Diane Jackson (Business Forum), Greg Jackson (Business Forum), David Hoyle (Business Forum), PC John Francis, Mick McPhee (Business Forum), Janet Milligan (Ridge Danyers), Paul Whatmough (Business Forum), Robert Hughes (Marple Civic Society), Jim Scotte (Marple Community Church), Mike Spreckley (Churches Together in Marple), Brian Nash (SMBC),

Guests: Sue Stevenson (Transportation and Health Policy Manager)

Apologies: Cllr Shan Alexander, Cllr Chris Baker, Peter Clarke, Mark Whittaker, Peter Jones, Paula Kelly

1. Introductions

BN made the appropriate introductions and apologies for absence received

2. Notes of last meeting

Mike Spreckley should be included on the attendance list. Notes then accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

Donation from Civic Society to the Market St project was confirmed by RH and would be paid upon receipt of an invoice from Stockport MBC after the work is completed.

PW reported progress has been made by The Business Forum with respect to public liability insurance, and is confident a clean-up event will take place.

4. Project Updates

• **Stockport By Pass information**

Sue Stevenson fully explained the situation with respect to the process being undertaken and implications for Marple businesses and residents. The proposed road is designed to carry local traffic and is expected to ease the traffic problems being experienced along Marple Road both into Stockport and towards Marple.

The opportunity to influence the highway design, location of junctions and other issues will be available through a widespread consultation process that will continue until the road is programmed for completion in 2007

• **LTP / SEMMMS**

- **Memorial Park**

The majority of work completed (tree planting and installation of the street light currently outstanding). BN explained that additional work is being undertaken to rectify poor drainage of the existing road into the park.

- **Market St**

Sue Stevenson fully explained the scheme to be implemented.

The need to completely overhaul the drainage system beneath Market Street has not only extended the length of contract (18 weeks) but has also increased the amount of engineering work required.

Action

BN

Project to start week commencing 20th October, work will cease on 28th November for the Christmas period, restart mid January 2004 and the scheme completed by the end of March 2004.

The importance of maintaining access to shops and businesses throughout the works was stressed by PW, and SS confirmed that this would be the case and that a Stockport MBC engineer (Brian Davies) would be closely monitoring the contract and visit the site on a regular basis.

A special meeting with Traders is to be held on Thursday 16 October to fully explain the project.

Information is to be displayed in the Library and on the appropriate web sites.

- Chadwick St Carpark

No progress to report, as priority is focussed on Market Street project.

• Police Update

JF listed the latest crime figures for both Marple Area and the District Centre area. The figures for August and September were very low, with a downward trend in the number of crimes reported.

• Twinning

DH reported back on the trip to Spain and will produce a formal written appraisal of the event. Briefly he reported the mixed success of the arrangements and is confident that good associations with towns (especially in the UK) will be mutually beneficial.

• Christmas Lights / events

BN explained that once the full extent of the work to be carried out on Market Street the installation of the Pea lights within the trees may need to be reconsidered although the festoon lights between the lighting columns should not be effected. It was agreed that, if no suitable alternative could be found, the pea lights should be kept in storage until next year. BN to liase with DJ, PW and DH to determine the switch on events for this year

5. Other Items

• Friends of Memorial Park

A meeting has been organised by Stockport Council Community Services on 6:45pm, 13th October in the Library involving interested parties as a initial step to establishing the Friends of Memorial Park.

BN reported a similar group is being established for Middlewood Way, although it was agreed that the Partnership would be closely involved with the Memorial Park but only have a minor interest in Middlewood Way.

• Links with Marple Schools/Colleges

DH reported on a letter received from the deputy Head explaining the desire of the college to achieve Language college status. The letter explained the process involved, the sponsorship needed and the grant funding that would become available. DH would maintain dialogue, as links with the School are invaluable.

DH also had contact with Lewis Entwistle, Head of Performing Arts at Ridge College and it was agreed that involvement with the college in the future could lead to items of public art / sculpture being located in the Centre. Unfortunately Lewis Entwistle was unable to attend the meeting but would be invited to a future meeting to discuss the way forward.

BN

BN

DH

BN/DJ/
PW/DH

DH

DH/BN

6. AOB

M. McP pointed out that there is a bus stop outside his shop, but with the installation of the new lighting columns the bus stop plate is no longer there. Buses do still stop there but really the sign should be replaced.

BN made reference to the recent Street cleansing initiative introduced in Marple District Centre. A street cleansing staff member is available for 6 hours a day, 6 days a week to ensure the area is kept free of litter. All agreed this was a welcome initiative, and any comments on the success or any problems arising should be forwarded to BN or Mark Cotterill (474 5679).

7. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th November 2003, Marple Library, 6.00- 7:45pm

BN